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18 March 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS



2. Costa Rica: Top 60 potential subversives to be under surveillance during Conference of Presidents. (Page 3)
3. USSR: Ambassador Kohler reports "unmistakable change in Soviet posture toward West." (Page 4)



7. Congo: Opposition may be tempted to move for government censure. (Page 9)
8. EEC-US: West Germany may support France concerning US Trade Expansion Act. (Page 10)
9. Notes: South Vietnam; Somali Republic - UK; Bolivia. (Page 11)



25X1

25X1

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

***Costa Rica:** The Orlich government has decided not to detain Costa Ricans suspected of planning disruptive action during the Conference of Presidents in San José from 18 to 20 March.

Alternatively, authorities plan to put the top 60 potential subversives under surveillance. However, the efficacy of such measures is open to question.

The public seems to be overwhelmingly in favor of the conference and such agitators as are at liberty are not likely to gain support for any significant demonstration. They could, however, be capable of isolated acts of protest or possibly of violence.

25X1

18 Mar 63

DAILY BRIEF

3

25X1

***USSR:** The US Embassy in Moscow notes "an unmistakable change in the Soviet posture" since Ambassador Kohler's talk with Gromyko on 26 January.

In the ambassador's opinion, the present "dol-drums if not actual chill" in East-West relations seem likely to persist until the Soviet leadership decides how to deal with the Chinese Communists. He considers this to be the priority subject for consideration and debate among Soviet leaders.

The Soviet leaders, in the ambassador's view, "are acutely conscious of Soviet weakness dramatically exposed" during the Cuban crisis, but have been unable to face up to the radical redistribution of resources which would be necessary to vitalize the sluggish economy and solve the agricultural problem. Outside the bloc, Khrushchev is unable to demonstrate superiority in economic competition with the West. Internally, the Soviet people are aware that he cannot keep his repeated promises to improve their lot.

Ambassador Kohler feels that Khrushchev is depressed but that this is less the result of differences with his colleagues than difficulties with a complicated world which no longer fits his earlier confident analyses. [REDACTED]

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18 Mar 63

DAILY BRIEF

4

25X1

Next 4 Page(s) In Document Exempt

25X1

*Congo: (The anti-Adoula opposition, elated by winning all seven lower house parliamentary offices on 15 March, may now be tempted to introduce censure motions against individual cabinet ministers or try to bring down the whole government.)

(Ambassador Gullion regards the 15 March lopsided votes against the government as a serious setback for Adoula and comments that the opposition is "feeling its oats.")

(In a talk with Gullion on 16 March, Adoula expressed continuing optimism and maintained that the lower house vote did not necessarily signal an adverse vote against him. However, Gullion notes that Adoula, for the first time, seemed to be thinking in terms of a successor. Adoula expressed doubt that the opposition could form a government, and stated flatly that a "Lumumbist" successor would not be permitted.)

(Adoula continues to negotiate changes in his cabinet, but the price of support appears to have risen sharply. Adoula's present ministers are reportedly threatening to resign over Adoula's contemplated changes. Katangan parliamentarians reportedly have decided to support Adoula, but want four cabinet posts and political concessions for Katanga in return.)

25X1

25X1

18 Mar 63

DAILY BRIEF

9

25X1

EEC-US: (West Germany may now be tacitly supporting France against the other Common Market (EEC) countries concerning the US Trade Expansion Act.)

(Italy and the Benelux nations are united against France in generally supporting the objectives of the US Trade Expansion Act, and earlier evidence had indicated German support. During a recent EEC discussion, however, the Germans did not join in opposing the French position.)

(French officials still insist that further progress on internal EEC problems is prerequisite to any forward movement on trade and tariff talks with the US. They are now also saying that the inclusion of agriculture in the negotiations--which is a key US demand--is a political issue requiring a decision at the "political level." In France's case, this means De Gaulle.)

(In a recent discussion with Belgian officials, the French used the tactic of suggesting that De Gaulle is perfectly willing to torpedo the whole Common Market as well as frustrate the implementation of the Trade Expansion Act if the other EEC countries do not fall into line.)

18 Mar 63

DAILY BRIEF

10

NOTES

South Vietnam: (The Diem regime is taking precautions to forestall any attempt at overthrow by potential coup groups within and outside the government. Twenty army officers--presumably of junior grade--reportedly have been arrested thus far in a loyalty check among the military; a dossier is also being prepared on various other individuals allegedly plotting against Diem. Despite an extensive apparatus for checking political reliability and the absence of any organized political opposition, Diem is said by one of his cabinet officials to live in constant fear of a coup.)

Somali Republic - UK: (Somali Prime Minister Abdirascid told the British ambassador on 16 March that a note formally terminating relations would be forthcoming. Clashes are expected in the Northern Frontier District in Kenya as Somali tribesmen, probably encouraged and supported by Mogadiscio, refuse to cooperate with local administrative officials and attempt to hold protest demonstrations. Moreover, Somali security forces which were recently ordered to take up defensive positions along both the Kenyan and Ethiopian frontiers may clash with security elements of either country.)

18 Mar 63

DAILY BRIEF

11

Bolivia: The new Czech offer to build an anti-mony smelter near the Bolivian rail and mining center of Oruro appears to include attractive terms, reports the US Embassy in La Paz. The US ambassador comments that the improved terms, the very depressed economic conditions of Oruro, and strong leftist political pressure may make the new offer irresistible to the Bolivian Government. If built, the smelter would be the first industrial enterprise constructed by the bloc in Bolivia.

25X1

18 Mar 63

DAILY BRIEF

12

25X1

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